

fine. Under the first amendment and the whole concept of free speech and industrial democracy, union activity in politics is a good and healthy thing.

□ 2355

I wish to encourage that, not discourage that. But the real fundamental question comes down to how those dollars are raised. When you have these organizations that raise funds without the consent of those who are paying, I believe that it constitutes the full definition of a criminal activity, an activity that ought to be ended.

The debate really is not over here in Congress. As many of us know and have followed, the efforts to move campaign finance reform to the floor again for the second time are being met and warmly received by our Speaker and others in our leadership. There will be another attempt at trying to pass meaningful campaign finance reform in a few months. When that bill comes to the floor, we ought to insist and demand that paycheck protection be a part of those debates and those discussions. Fortunately for the 80 percent of the individuals who support paycheck protection, we are receiving very favorable indications from our leadership that that will be the case, that we will have an open floor scenario where amendments by Members will be able to be offered, including the Paycheck Protection Act, that the Paycheck Protection Act may in fact be folded into the base bill that comes to the floor for campaign finance reform. But more importantly, I think it is important for this Congress to utilize its opportunity for national leadership to speak out to the American people and to talk about the real travesty that exists and takes place every single day.

Mr. Speaker, most people really do not believe or do not understand that it is possible in America to have a portion of an individual's wages being siphoned off and spent on political causes without their knowledge and without their consent. If we can say that over and over and over again and allow people to understand really how sick politics has become at this particular level, I think that will give us the added impetus and the added incentive here in Washington to put the voice of the people ahead of the voices of those small special interests who use these political funds to their political advantage.

Oh, and it pays off. There is no question about that. Once again, I refer my colleagues to this chart. When you have 80 percent of the American people in every column, again, average voters in this column, union households in this column, 84 percent of teacher union households, 80 percent of non-union households, when you have those kinds of numbers of individuals who tell us that they want paycheck protection and yet the 16 percent of voters, the 16 percent of union members, the 13 percent of teacher union members and the 16 percent of nonunion

members who tell us that they do not want paycheck protection, and you realize that it is the small minority who wins the day here in Congress.

We can see very clearly that the political dollars that are spent to advance the causes of labor unions is paying off for labor unions. It is paying off for the 16 percent. But I am confident that throughout the country as more and more States begin to evaluate the question of labor union dues and paycheck protection, that we will see State after State after State siding on behalf of rank and file families, rank and file workers and union members in the end who would rather have their union dollars going toward union activities that are legitimate and on the work site, perhaps toward supporting their pensions.

If you are a member of the Teamsters Union, you realize that you are going to have to raise more money for your pension funds because of the theft that took place and the money laundering that took place to, in fact, drain the pension plan of the Teamsters Union at the national level, again which has resulted in the indictment of many high-ranking Teamsters officials and in the end resulted in past Teamsters President Ron Carey being invalidated and prohibited from seeking reelection to the post, essentially clearing the way for James Hoffa, Jr. to become President of the Teamsters Union.

When you see these kinds of scandals, if you are a member of the Teamsters Union, you realize that maybe you would rather have a greater portion of your union dues going toward repaying many of the expenses and costs associated with these internal crimes rather than seeing them going toward subsidizing campaigns and political organizations that they may not support.

Let me tell you about one of the individuals who testified before the Subcommittee on Employer and Employee Relations just last year, a man named Kerry Gipe, a union member who testified. He said, quote, I was told that joining the union was a mandatory part of working for the company and absolutely no money was allowed to be used from our union dues for political purposes.

Unfortunately for Mr. Gipe and millions of other American workers, labor bosses continue to use compulsory dues for political purposes. According to some estimates, unions spent as much as \$200 million in the 1996 election. All that the Paycheck Protection Act that was proposed here in Congress did was empower the individual worker. It was, in all candor, at the expense of the small number of union bosses who benefit from the funds of their members. Employees would decide under such a piece of legislation whether and to whom they contribute their hard-earned wages and that they could revoke that authorization at any time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a topic that we will discuss again and bring to the floor at other occasions over the course

of the next several months. It is a topic that will be discussed across the country in various States that are considering paycheck protection. Once again I am convinced that once we just lay out the very basic facts of this particular political scandal and evidence of corruption that exists in the country, that eventually we are going to answer properly and correctly and those 80 percent of individuals will finally have their voices heard.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. KLINK) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. COYNE, today, for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. KLINK, today, for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS, TODAY, FOR 5 MINUTES.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCKEON) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. SESSIONS, today and April 30, for 5 minutes each.

Mr. HORN, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAXTON, today, for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGGS, today, for 5 minutes.

#### EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

By unanimous consent, permission to revise and extend remarks was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. KLINK) and to include extraneous matter:

Mr. KIND.

Mr. COYNE.

Mr. DICKS.

Mr. HOYER.

Mr. LANTOS.

Ms. KAPTUR.

Mr. DOYLE.

Mr. HAMILTON.

Ms. DELAURO.

Mr. TORRES.

Mr. BONIOR.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

Mr. TOWNS.

Ms. FURSE.

Ms. NORTON.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York.

Mr. SKELTON.

Mr. VENTO.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut.

Mr. BENTSEN.

Mr. CARDIN.

Mr. STARK.

Mr. BROWN of California.

Mr. KLECZKA.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts.

Mr. LEVIN.

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. MCKEON) and to include extraneous matter: